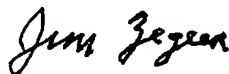correlation of ATM switch failures and traps and automating recommended courses of corrective action using an inference engine for the performance of ATM management networks. Neither the problem manager nor the traffic manager nor the performance manger of Hearn et al (US 5,640,505) is chararacterized as being an expert system or an inference engine. Hence, it is not clear that the reference utilizes an inference engine fault manager including correlation of ATM switch failures and traps and automating recommended courses of corrective action or that there is an inference engine used for the performance management of the ATM management network. In fact, the terms "inference" and "expert" do not appear in the Hearn et al disclosure.

In view of the above, further and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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In the event this paper is deemed not timely filed, the applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to Deposit Account No. 26-0090 along with any other additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper.